(c) what will be fate of those students who have already passed or are presently studying various correspondence/distance education courses from IGNOU/Delhi University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Government of India has issued Gazette Notification No. 44 on 1st March, 1995. As per this Notification, the qualifications awarded through Distance Education by the Universities established by an act of Parliament of State Legislature, Institutions Deemed to be Universities under Section 3 of UGC Act, 1956 and Institutions of National Importance declared under an Act of Parliament stand automatically recognized for the purpose of employment to the posts and services under Central Government, provided it has been approved by Distance Education Council, Indira Gandhi National Open University and wherever necessary by All India Council for Technical Education.

Universalisation of Mid-day Meal Scheme

22. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have intention of universalizing Mid-day Meal Scheme; if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) if so, by when Mid-day Meal Scheme would be universalized; and

(c) by when the poorest of the poor, *viz.* the tribal children of Central India will get mid-day meal irrespective of where they study since one of the objective of Mid-day Meal Scheme is to attract children and retain them in school?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 15th August 1995, initially in 2408 blocks in the country. By the year 1997-98 the NP-NSPE was introduced in all blocks of the country.

The NP-NSPE (commonly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme) was

extended in 2002 to cover children in classes I-V of Government, Government Aided and local body schools, and also children studying in centres run under the Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) Scheme.

Vide order dated 28.11.2001 passed in WP (C) 196/2001 the Supreme Court of India directed States to *"implement the Mid Day meal Scheme by providing every child in every Government and Government assisted primary school with a prepared mid day meal with a minimum content of 300 calories and 8-12 grams of protein each day of school for a minimum of 200 days". Vide* a subsequent order dated 24.4.2004 the Supreme Court of India directred that the Central Government shall provide the costs for conversion of foodgrains into a hot cooked meal. Accordingly, the NP-NSPE was revised in September 2004 to provide *cooked* med day meal with 300 calories and 8-12 grams of protein to all children studying in classes I-V in Government, Government Aided schools and EGS/AIE centers, which cater to children from poor families as also SC and ST children. In addition to free supply of food grains, the schme also provided (a) colling cost @ Re 1 per child per school day, (b) transport subsidy at the rate of Rs. 100 per quintal for special category States, and Rs. 75 per quintal for other States, (c) management, monitoring and evaluation costs @ 2% of the cost of foodgrains, transport subsidy and cooking assistance, and (d) provision of mid day meal during summer vacation in drought affected areas.

In July 2006 the Scheme was further revised to provide cooking cost at the enhanced rate of Rs. 2/- per child per school day, of which the NER States were required to provide a minimum 20 paise per child per school day, and non-NER States 50 paise per child per school day. The nutritional norm was enhanced from 300 calories to 450 calories and protein content fixed at 12 grams per child. In addition, the revised scheme provides for construction of kitchen sheds and procurement of kitchen devices in order to ensure that cooking is undertaken in safe and hygienic conditions.

The number of children covered in Government, Government Aided schools and EGS and AIE centers in the States of Central India, namely Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh is given in the table below:

Sl. No.	State	Institutions			Children covered		
		Schhol	EGS./AIE Centres	Total	School	EGS/AIE Centres	Total
1.	Bihar	51,245	14,005	65,250	1,33,27,523 @	1,65,870 @1	1,34,93,393
2.	Chhattisgarh	31,510	230	31,740	30,99,782	4,691	31,04,473
3.	Jharkhand	21,917	11,675	33,592	34,43,878	8,36,611	42,80,489
4.	Madhya Pradesh	86,096	8,809	94,905	91,96,332	2,28,908	94,24,240
5.	Uttar Pradesh	88,887	4,300	93,187	1,84,62,658	2,56,970	1,87,19,628

@ - Includes children of EGS Centres.

@ 1 - Only children of AIE Centres.

KGBVs in Karnataka

23. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether more than 60 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas covering educationally backward blocks in Karnataka are operational now;

(b) whether self-help groups and NGOs are managing many of the KGBVs in Karnataka; and

(c) whether Government have so far enlisted any support fromthe corporate bodies in Karnataka to adopt and fund the KGBV and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) 61 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) sanctioned to Karnataka are reported to be operational

(b) Self help groups and NGOs are involved in 32 KGBVs managed by the Education Department. The remaining 29 schools are being managed by the Mahila Samakhya programme of Karnataka.

(c) The KGBV in Sedam taluk of district gulbarga, has been adopted by the Kagina Jan Seva Trust, Gulbarga under the aegis of the Aditya Birla Centre for Community Initiatives and Rural Development.